

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 260240Z OCT 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GV DM

SUBJ: AMB ADJIBADE DISCUSSES DAHOMEY CABINET CHANGES

1. MISOFF SPOKE WITH DAHOMEAN PERMREP ADJIBADE OCT 25 AT UN TO DISCUSS CABINET RE-SHUFFLE ANNOUNCED IN COTONOU OCT 21. ADJIBADE EMPHASIZED CHANGES DO NOT INDICATE SHIFT IN POLICY, WHICH REMAINS AS LAID DOWN IN BASIC PROGRAM OF MRGD. HE CHARACTERIZED NEW MINISTERS AS MORE COMPETENT THAN THOSE THEY REPLACE, AND SAID REORGANIZATION OF MINISTRIES WAS FOR REASONS OF GREATER EFFICIENCY AND SMOOTHER OPERATIONS.

2. ADJIBADE POINTED TO RETENTION OF FONMIN ALLADAYE AS INDICATION NEW CABINET WILL CONTINUE ALREADY ESTABLISHED FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS. HE SAID ASSOGBA WAS MOVED ASIDE BECAUSE AS FINANCE MINISTER HE WAS TOO RIGID AND HAD REAL PROBLEMS WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY. NEW FINANCE MINISTER, ACCORDING TO ADJIBADE, WILL PROVE MORE FLEXIBLE AND ABLE. PERMREP SAID TWO MINISTERS WHO WERE DROPPED HAD NOT BEEN DILIGENT ENOUGH IN PURSUING PROGRAMS, SPECIFICALLY HE ASSERTED THEY HAD "RELAXED" ON JOB. HE DECLARED BEBADA HAD BEEN "COMPROMISED",
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BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. ADJIBADE DOUBTS THERE WILL BE FURTHER

CHANGES IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. QUESTIONED ON PRESENCE OF GUINEAN INFORMATION MINISTER
BEHANZIN IN COTONOU, ADJIBADE STATED HE WAS CERTAIN LATTER
HAD ONLY RETURNED FOR BRIEF OFFICIAL VISIT. ADJIBADE STRONGLY
DOUBTED BEHANZIN WAS PLANNING TO RESETTLE IN HIS COUNTRY OF
ORIGIN, ADDING THAT IN ANY CASE BEHANZIN WOULD NOT HAVE MUCH
INFLUENCE WITH MRGD. BEHANZIN'S EASTERN EUROPEAN CONNECTIONS
AND SOCIALIST CONVICTIONS ARE WELL KNOWN TO DAHOMEANS. WHAT
ROLE WOULD BEHANZIN, A CIVILIAN, PLAY IN THE MILITARY
GOVERNMENT, ADJIBADE QUEIIED THRTORICALLY?
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